



clearweed

Pilea pumila

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

Clearweed is an annual herb with fibrous roots. Its stems are erect, usually branched, translucent, smooth, and up to two feet tall. The leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. They are three-veined, toothed, and up to four inches long. The greenish male and female flowers grow separately in the same spike. The ovoid, flattened, tiny fruits are green marked with purple.

Natural History

Clearweed grows in bottomland forests and near ponds and streams. It flowers from July through September. It is rare in the northwest part of the state and frequent to common elsewhere.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; bottomland forests; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.